



SIGNAL online

Archives

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1. SOLS JUNE STAFF MEETING

Being spread across southern Ontario, it is important for our staff to meet as a group periodically. Our next full staff get together is coming up on June 4th and 5th. All staff will be involved and so the office will be closed for these two days.

While SOLS personnel are attending a staff retreat, we have arranged for someone to monitor email sent to helpdesk@sols.org for that period. Only issues regarding a global INFO system problem such as "VDX inaccessible" or "INFO union catalogue not returning hits" will be dealt with on those days. Any other issues (i.e. suspensions, problem requests, etc.) will be dealt with on Wednesday June 6. Please remember to use the SOLS Helpdesk email address "helpdesk@sols.org" to report on those days as the voice mail box will not be monitored.

For the drivers to attend the staff meeting, SOLS delivery routes will not operate on Monday, June 4 and Tuesday, June 5, 2007. This also means that inter-branch delivery will be cancelled on both days. During the week of June 4th, the delivery routes will be re-arranged with some libraries receiving delivery on different days. New book deliveries from the Library Services Centre and Library Bound will continue to be made that week but some delivery days may be

adjusted. The revised delivery schedule for the week of June 4th is posted on the SOLS website.

2. CONSORTIA PURCHASING THROUGH COOL

SOLS staff have negotiated consortia purchasing for library products under the COOL initiative. The Consortium of Ontario Libraries (COOL) is a buying group for electronic journals, magazines, ebooks and other products not available for free on the web. Public, university, college and school libraries purchase licenses and ebooks for deeper discounts than they could achieve alone. More information about COOL is posted on the SOLS website.

COOL was first established in 1998, when the group negotiated deals on four different electronic products. Since that time, many products and services have been offered to libraries through COOL. During May, another product was made available through the COOL buying group. In each case, an e-mail, with details of the offer, was sent to the Library CEO, as well as to the COOL contact person in the library. For further details on any offers, or for trial access, please contact Brenda Lewis, Information Services Representative, at the SOLS Toronto office by telephone at 416-961-1669, ext. 5130, or 1-800-387-5765, ext. 5130 or by e-mail at blewis@sols.org. The offers are as follows:

a) Bibliography of Native North Americans (BNNA) - The Consortium of Ontario Libraries is negotiating a license on behalf of Consortia Canada to the *Bibliography of Native North Americans*. The BNNA is licensed as an annual subscription via the Web on the Ebscohost platform. Access is unlimited and is available via username/password, referring URL, embedded URL, library card number authentication or combinations, such as IP address for the institution and username/password for remote access. The term is June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008. An evaluation trial for new subscribers will be in effect until May 31, 2007 (for further details on the trial, contact Brenda Lewis). The deadline for response to COOL is **Friday, May 25, 2007**.

b) Oxford University Press – There are six different products in this offer, and a few changes from previous years. The *Oxford Reference Online* 'Core' product has been discontinued by OUP. Libraries must upgrade to 'Premium' if they wish to continue subscribing. The ORO renewal page also includes pricing for the Digital Reference Shelf product. For the *American National Biography*, the FTE weighting for the unlimited access model has been replaced with a five step tier model. For the *Dictionary of National Biography*, here is now an unlimited access model. For the *Oxford Scholarship Online*, there is a new perpetual access pricing model for this product. For the *Oxford English Dictionary* and *Oxford African American Studies Centre*, there are no particular changes from previous years. The deadline for responses is **Tuesday, June 12th**. More information about this COOL offer is posted on SOLS website.

c) AccessScience – McGraw-Hill's AccessScience delivers the latest content of the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology*, 10th Edition, and the *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms*, 6th Edition. It covers all major areas of science and technology through 8,500 encyclopedia & research update articles and 14,000 illustrations. Updated continuously, AccessScience also includes news articles published weekly on key developments. More information on this COOL offer is posted on SOLS website.

3. AUDIO BOOKS UPDATE

This information was also sent via the SOLSCO listserv on May 24th. There are a number of options available to public libraries with respect to downloadable audio books and each vendor offers different pricing models. To date, we have offered audiobooks collections from OCLC/NetLibrary and Overdrive. Information regarding these products is available on our website as follows:

OCLC/NetLibrary - OCLC/NetLibrary now offers 2 pricing models for libraries. Initially, libraries could only subscribe to audiobooks titles. It is now possible to purchase audio titles in the same way you can purchase ebook titles. Audiobooks from NetLibrary are offered from Recorded Books, Blackstone Audio and Books on Tape. Access to their collection includes Unlimited Simultaneous Access (for subscriptions only) and can be downloaded directly to desktops or transfer to portable devices. The interface is the same as ebooks if you are part of the shared ebooks collection. More information is posted in the COOL section of the SOLS website.

In addition, OCLC/NetLibrary audiobook titles can now be added to the provincial shared collection. We are investigating this option for COOL IV. **If there are libraries that have not yet joined the shared ebook collection, libraries can be added until the end of June.** In addition, SOLS will once again subsidize those libraries serving populations fewer than 15,000 and First Nations communities. More information on the NetLibrary Ebook collection is posted on SOLS website.

OverDrive - OverDrive offers a different model when it comes to audiobooks. Their service involves the set-up of a library specific website. The cost for this model involves one time set-up expenses, as well as ongoing maintenance and collection costs. A group of 5 libraries (Barrie, Innisfil, Middlesex, Milton, and Oakville) went ahead with this model last fall and the group went live in mid-March with a collection of just over 400 titles. All indications are that this collection is seeing very high use. This group will not be adding libraries so those libraries interested in another shared

OverDrive audiobooks collection will have to start another group. More information on the OverDrive audiobook collection is posted on SOLS website

Playaway – This is another model for audiobooks which involves a self-playing audiobook: a device pre-loaded with content for patrons. This model involves no "downloading" by patrons. It uses a more conventional approach, where libraries purchase the titles that come pre-loaded on these devices for checkout like other library material. The cost per title is comparable to that of a hardcover book. We would like to determine the level of interest in libraries before SOLS proceeds with a CPA for this product. Consortia discounts are available if enough libraries are interested and wish to purchase these audiobooks.

If your library is interested in purchasing or subscribing to any of the above products please contact Brenda Lewis at blewis@sols.org by Friday, June 8th. We will then gauge interest levels in these products and determine how to proceed. Information will be posted on the audiobooks listserv. If you do not currently subscribe to the list, you can do so at <http://lists.library.on.ca/mailman/listinfo/audiobooks>. For general information on these options, please contact Barbara Franchetto at bfranchetto@sols.org.

4. CONNECTIVITY

For the last six years, the Ministry of Culture has supported public library connectivity through its Internet Connectivity project which is administered by SOLS. The purpose of the fund is to improve public access Internet connectivity, targeting high speed access. This year, the priority is to raise the minimum speed for all branches to 512 Kbps and provide static IP addresses. Libraries that do not meet the new minimum of 512 Kbps or do not have static IP addresses were also considered in the survey.

Information on connectivity levels has now been collected. There are a few more points of information that need to be collected. If a library was notified to submit additional information, the deadline for submission of this additional information is June 29, 2007. For further information, please contact Gelja Wegman at gwegman@sols.org or call 1-800-387-5765 ext. 5170.

5. CLUB AMICK

Before this school year is out, the Lieutenant Governor's Club Amick will have provided four new books to each of more than 3,000 children in 27 fly-in communities throughout northern Ontario. That's a total of 14,951 books, mostly in the picture book format, many of them Canadian, that have been selected by three professional librarians who work for OLS-North and Southern Ontario Library Service, purchased and shipped through the Library Services Centre in Waterloo, and then flown from four different airports to the 27 communities. The amount of coordination this requires is awe-inspiring: figuring out the right number of books for the corresponding number of children in each age category; ensuring the right books go into the right boxes for the right communities; choosing replacement titles at the last minute; coordinating the shipping with space availability on the airplanes that go into these fly-in communities, not to mention monitoring the funds required to make all this happen, and soliciting sponsorships and donations as needed. At the heart of this coordination is a partnership between OLS-North and SOLS, based on a shared desire to achieve the Honourable James Bartleman's dream of getting young northerners reading exciting new books and, in the experience, instilling a love of reading.

The project is not without its rewards for those of us involved. One particularly rewarding aspect of the Club Amick project is producing the newsletter that accompanies the new books. Again, it is a collaborative effort by SOLS and OLS-North, with staff of both agencies writing creative content and OLS-North providing formatting and design expertise. Each child receives a copy of the newsletter, thus we strive to make it readable, eye catching, and full of ideas and activities that support emerging literacy. Past issues have included mazes, word searches, poetry, jokes and riddles, practical activities and little tidbits of fascinating factual trivia. Did **you** know that the average beaver can cut down 200 trees a year?

In addition, editorials written by Amick the beaver tell the children about life in his ramshackle home on Kawinogans River, near Pickle Lake, and invariably include pleas for news from his readers. And a number of readers have actually written back! To date, Amick has received well over a hundred postcards, in which the children describe their new books, talk about their families, their communities, their love of hockey, their lives, and what they want to be when they grow up. Particularly memorable is the young girl who can't decide whether she'll be a police officer or a Pow Wow dancer! One postcard submission from Leanne who lives in Attawapiskat is shown here.

As enjoyable as these postcard submissions are, in and of themselves, far more rewarding is the opportunity to capture the exchange between Amick and his readers, and to reproduce the children's works in subsequent newsletters. It is our hope, a hope we share with the Lieutenant Governor, that, little by little, our efforts to produce a newsletter of interest and appeal to our young readers may well be laying the foundation for a community of readers engaged in a creative exchange of ideas.

The Club Amick Program has a new web site. The new web site provides descriptions of the program, the participating communities, and gives details on how to donate to Club Amick.

As noted here, Club Amick is a book club for children in Ontario's remote First Nation communities. Each club member receives a children's book and an activities-oriented newsletter several times per year. The goal is for young Native children to create their own home libraries. The program builds on the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camps, which promote the joy of reading. SOLS and Ontario Library Service - North collaborate in coordinating all aspects of the program.

6. KNOWLEDGE ONTARIO

a) Update on Knowledge Ontario projects - Knowledge Ontario (formerly the Ontario Digital Library) is a province-wide collaboration of libraries to create an integrated and interactive digital environment about, and for, Ontarians. **Resource Ontario**, one of six projects, provides all publicly funded libraries in Ontario with access to a core suite of digital products. The resources and materials from Thomson Gale (CPI-Q and ten other databases) and EBSCO (Canadian Reference Centre) offer full text of thousands of newspapers, magazines and books. As an update, Resource Ontario statistics indicate that online database searches on these Thomson Gale and EBSCO databases are doubling each month. All colleges, universities, most school boards and most of the public libraries have registered.

OurOntario.ca, through project manager Loren Fantin, continues to build a portal to help Ontarians discover and locate thousands of digital collections about, and from, Ontario. **Teach Ontario** skills modules are currently being discussed under the leadership of Lisa Weaver of the Toronto District School Board. **Video Ontario**, using video streaming to bring content to students, public library users, college and university staff, had its first meeting with representatives from York University, York District School Board, Oshawa Public Library, the Ontario Colleges Bibliocentre, the Kawartha Pineridge District School Board, and the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board. For **Connect Ontario**, KO is currently in negotiations with British Columbia, Alberta, and the Biblicommons Company to launch the first Beta of a social software, user enhanced content solution.

Ask Ontario, with the guidance of project manager Virginia Roy, is in the process of completing province-wide focus groups that will lead to the establishment of an Ontario virtual reference service pilot. The **Ask Ontario Steering Committee** has asked CEOs to participate in a 5-10 minute, web-based questionnaire designed to identify sources of active involvement, as well as current barriers to involvement, in the delivery of real time virtual reference services for the citizens of Ontario. More information about the initiative is posted in the Ask Ontario section of the Knowledge Ontario website or by contacting Virginia Roy, Project Manager at vroy@knowledgeontario.ca. The deadline for

completion of the questionnaire **was extended to Friday, June 1, 2007.**

Please visit the Knowledge Ontario website at for the latest updates. For example, a French Services Advisory Group has been established to better serve Ontario's Francophone community. A promotional material features has been added which allows you to order and download marketing materials KO logos and graphics, as well as a training section to keep track of upcoming training opportunities.

b) SOLS updates new Knowledge Ontario information page

SOLS has added a Knowledge Ontario portal page to its website. This page is intended to be an information page for SOLS libraries on the roll-out of the Knowledge Ontario initiatives. This page includes information on the various training initiatives from SOLS, as well as information about the database resources, particularly on how public libraries can incorporate these resources into their work.

c) Registration for the two sets of Resources Ontario databases

There are still approximately 35 library systems in southern Ontario (out of 191) that have not yet registered to use either the Thomson Gale or EBSCO databases. By completing the registration process, library patrons from the library will continue to have access to the resources, and statistics on the usage by patrons from your library will be tracked.

Libraries can register for Thomson Gale websites through the trial website. To register for EBSCO's Canadian Reference Centre database through the Knowledge Ontario project, please visit their website.

d) Training for Resources Ontario databases

Earlier this year, SOLS offered a number of **web-based training** sessions, called webinars, through January, February and March. Webinars are "live" training sessions, in which participants view the presentation through their Web-browser and listen to the audio through their telephone. Any number of staff from a library can participate, as long as they have access to a phone (or speaker-phone) and a computer. The purpose of these webinars was to introduce staff to the range of databases available, and to basic search features on the Thomson Gale databases. The web-based training was free of charge, and each session lasted approximately one hour. We ran several introductory sessions and some on administrative options, in English.

On Monday, June 11th from 10am to 11am and on Tuesday June 12th from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, we will be running the same introductory webinars again – but this time in French. More information and a registration form is posted in the training section of the SOLS website.

In June, SOLS is offering additional training on the Thompson Gale databases. "Webinars by Thomson Gale - Hot topics on the library website" will teach staff how to create links to current and timely information from the databases on topics of interest to the general public. For example, as summer approaches, libraries could provide a direct link to information on drought-resistant gardens or consumer information on ceiling fans. In addition, we will look at how some libraries have grouped subsets of the Thomson Gale databases to provide meaningful links to related subject material. Further information on the webinar, including session dates and times, is available on the SOLS website.

7. FUNDING FROM THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

- Next deadline is July 1, 2007

The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to offer grants to libraries in small communities and First Nation communities. Under the OTF community program, applications for grants for **municipal libraries** serving small communities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the municipality. Applications for grants for **county libraries** serving small municipalities (populations of 20,000 or less) must be submitted through the County Library Board. Applications for grants for **First Nation libraries** must be submitted through the First Nation's Band Council.

A copy of the application process is posted on the Foundation's website. If you are applying for a **small capital grant**, up to a maximum of \$15,000, there is a new simplified application form. Capital funding is used for repairs, renovations or improvements to land or buildings and to purchase equipment to support program activities. Capital funding also supports accessibility renovations, the purchase of office equipment and musical instruments, and the installation of fuel-efficient furnaces and community-centre roofs. There is also a link to the Trillium website from the main SOLS page at www.sols.org. The next deadline is July 1, 2007 – at 5:00 pm on the deadline date. Rob Lavery, from the SOLS staff, is available to assist in preparing the application or to review an application, and you can contact Rob at 1-800-387-5765, extension 5137 or rlavery@sols.org.

8. SOLS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Information about SOLS training workshops is posted in the training section of the SOLS website.

a) Workshops this month

The remaining workshops for the Spring 2007 season are:

Workshop #9: Webinars: Hot topics on the Library Website

Workshop #10: "The Library's Contribution to your Community" (Second Edition). This session is currently full, but if you are interested in the sessions, please contact Nancy McPherson at training@sols.org. If we get enough interest, we can schedule another session later.

Webinaire: Introduction aux bases de données de Knowledge Ontario de Thomson Gale

b) Workshop information now posted

For those who attended the workshop entitled Workshop #4: Libraries and the Law, there is a link through which you may sign up for the monthly newsletter at Carters (the law firm which presented the sessions for us). A copy of the presentation that was given is posted on their website. Select the workshop from the list of **"Recent events and presentations"** down the right hand side of the webpage. There is also a link to these resources from the Training section of the Clearinghouse of Professional Information.

9. TD SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2007

SOLS has supported the TD Summer Reading Program since 2000 when it was first expanded beyond Toronto. Each year, we organize the ordering process for libraries in southern Ontario, deliver all of the materials to SOLS' libraries, post information about booklists, clip art and other program ideas on our website, as well as organize a number of orientation sessions.

The staff at Library and Archives Canada are building the website for the 2007 TD Summer Reading program. After selecting the language in which you wish to work, there is a page with introductory information. LAC staff have now posted an electronic copy of the staff manual, as well as the artwork which will be used on the posters, invitations and booklets.

10. CLEARINGHOUSE OF PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

OLS-North and SOLS are working on a joint Clearinghouse of Professional Information and this work continues with ongoing enhancements and updates. The Clearinghouse now has a search engine. The website is using Google's Custom Search feature to enable users to search the site by keyword. The search function is accessible from the sidebar of all Clearinghouse web pages. Libraries could bookmark this page and add it to their browser tool bar, for quick access.

Please remember to subscribe to our RSS feeds. These feeds are linked to information that has been posted to the main SOLS page at www.sols.org. For further information on RSS, please select the small orange RSS box in the middle of the main SOLS page.

11. SOLS CEO LISTSERV

SOLS maintains a list of all the e-mail addresses for SOLS CEOs. It is this list that is used to distribute Signal. Several times through the month, you may also receive other messages from SOLS. This month, this message was distributed through the SOLSCEO list:

- On May 1st and May 24th, Brenda Lewis sent out several e-mails regarding subscriptions for electronic products through SOLS. More information on COOL offers is posted earlier in this newsletter.
- On May 4th, Barbara Franchetto sent out a message on behalf of the Vice-President of Therapeutic Paws of Canada (TPOC). In the enclosed letter, it was pointed out that only TPOC Child Certified volunteers are permitted to offer the "Paws to Read" program. "Paws to Read" is not a generic name for use by any library, but is protected by trademark and by specific standards.
- On May 7th, Barbara Franchetto sent a message on behalf of the **Ask Ontario Steering Committee** asking CEOs to participate in a 5-10 minute, web-based questionnaire designed to identify sources of active

involvement, as well as current barriers to involvement, in the delivery of real time virtual reference services for the citizens of Ontario. More information about the initiative is posted in the Ask Ontario section of the Knowledge Ontario website or by contacting Virginia Roy, Project Manager at vroy@knowledgeontario.ca. The deadline for completion of the questionnaire was Friday, May 18th, 2007. On May 24th, **the deadline was extended to Friday, June 1, 2007**

- On May 9th, Laurey Gilles forwarded a message from Peter Rogers of the Knowledge Ontario Steering Committee. In the message, it was reported that the first face-to-face meeting of the selected / elected members would be held on May 23rd and then provided an update on several of the KO projects, including Resource Ontario, Ask Ontario and OurOntario. More information appears earlier in this newsletter.
- On May 23rd, Barbara Franchetto sent a message on behalf of Kim Brady at Ontario Library Service-North. The message was that Ontario Library Service – North is considering a new **Graphic Novel Pool**. Anyone interested is asked to contact Kim Brady at 1-800-461-6348 or 705-675-6467 ext. 203 or by e-mail kbrady@olsn.ca by the middle of June.

If you did not receive this message, and would like further information, please contact the SOLS HelpDesk at 1-800-387-5765, extension 4, or by e-mail to helpdesk@sols.org

12. INFORMATION ON THE MINISTRY WEBSITE

The Ministry has posted a new FAQ on their website to address questions and answers that will assist public libraries in understanding some things set out in *Bill 130: The Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006, Schedule A* and the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The document does not cover all matters relating to the new legislation. The Ministry is not providing legal advice on any of the matters addressed in this FAQ. Library boards may wish to review sections of the Bill that affect local boards with their own legal counsel.

There are 10 FAQs concerning this piece of legislation, including the following:

Q 5. S. 98 of Schedule A amends the *Municipal Act, 2001*, by adding Part V.I on Accountability and Transparency. Does this new part of the *Municipal Act, 2001* apply to library boards?

A 5. No. Library "boards" as defined in s.1 of the *Public Libraries Act* are one of a group of organizations that are exempted from the new municipal accountability and transparency provisions in Part VI. They are exempted under s. 223.1 of this new part of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Disclaimer. For questions, comments and suggestions regarding this website, please Contact SOLS Helpdesk.
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